

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 and 21-28 are pending. The Examiner rejects independent Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 11, 12, 14, 15, 22, 27, and 28 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 5,240,198 to Dörfel. The Examiner rejects Claims 6-10 and 25 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Dörfel, and Claims 3 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dörfel in view of European Patent No. 1211214 to Floyd et al. Claims 16-19 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Dörfel in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,326,113 to Montalvo, III, and Claims 21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Dörfel in view of Fejer, Science and Technology. Moreover, Claim 24 has been objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of independent Claim 22.

As will be explained in further detail below, independent Claims 1, 11, and 22 have been amended to further clarify and distinguish the cited references. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

In the Office Action, the Examiner now relies on Dörfel as disclosing independent Claims 1, 11, and 22. Dörfel discloses a compliant winder for a web winding machine. A pair of rollers 10 are used in conjunction with a support roll-device 20 to roll a paper sheet 1 onto a roll 2. Each roller 10 includes a hollow cylinder roller 21 that includes a rotation-symmetrical end piece 22 inserted at each end of the cylinder roller to collectively form a roller element 24. The end piece extends outwardly from the roller 21 to form a journal roller 23. For larger rolls 10, the roller 21 can be internally braced hydraulically. The outer perimeter 25 of the roller element 24 is attached to an intermediate layer 26 of compact, elastic, flexible polyurethane, while the outer perimeter of the intermediate layer is covered by a thin-wall roller mantle 33 of spring steel. In use, the roller 10 is easily deformable as a result of nip pressure at the roll 2.

Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 11, and 22 to recite that the chuck-engaging layer defines an innermost surface of at least a portion of the winding core. In contrast, Dörfel does not disclose a chuck-engaging layer forming an innermost surface of the rollers 10, as the intermediate layer 26 is positioned between the roller mantle 33 and the hollow roller 21, and the end pieces 22 are positioned in the ends of the rollers (e.g., welded) and adjacent to the

hollow roller to form a roller journal or roller lug. Thus, the intermediate layer 26 of Dörfel is not an innermost surface of the roller and is incapable of being engaged by the end pieces, let alone a chuck, which is unlike the claimed invention. In fact, Dörfel discloses that the intermediate layer and the roller mantle of thin, spring steel may be radially deformed, as shown in FIG. 4, to distribute the contact force and generate a low, specific nip pressure between the roll and roller. As a result, the intermediate layer of Dörfel is used for increasing flexibility of the roller, but does not facilitate the engagement with a chuck. In any event, Applicant has amended the independent claims to recite that the chuck-engaging layer forms an innermost surface of the winding core in order to further distinguish the intermediate layer of Dörfel.

In addition, independent Claims 1, 11, and 22 recite that the core member is capable of having a web material wound about the core member. Conversely, the rollers 10 of Dörfel are not configured to wind or unwind a web material on or off of the roller. Namely, Dörfel discloses that “the rollers 4, 5, 11, 16 are in contact in the nips with the nip pressures 8, 9, 17 at the roll 2, and due to their surface behavior, they determine the package hardness of the roll.” Col. 4, lines 19-22.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of independent Claims 1, 11, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is overcome. Since the dependent claims include each of the recitations of a respective independent claim, the rejections of the dependent claims are also overcome for at least the same reasons as described above in conjunction with the independent claims.

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In view of the amendments and remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the present claims of the present application are in condition for immediate allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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